November 14, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Robert Davis challenges Court of Claims law after judge warns about lawsuits

"Highland Park union activist Robert Davis filed a federal lawsuit today against Gov. Rick Snyder and other state defendants, seeking to strike down as unconstitutional a new state law that changes the way the State of Michigan can be sued. Davis filed the action the same day he was cautioned by a federal bankruptcy judge about being overly litigious.... The case is assigned to U.S. District Judge Gershwin Drain."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Brian Dickerson: Court of Claims picks put a bipartisan face on GOP power play

Full story

Associated Press: 4 judges named to hear lawsuits against Michigan

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in Crain's Detroit Business, the Daily Mining Gazette/Houghton, WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing, the Republic/Columbus, IN, and other media outlets.

Detroit Legal News: State Supreme Court names Court of Claims judges Full story

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

Detroit Legal News: Asked and Answered: [Graham Crabtree on Court of Claims]

Full story

Macomb County Legal News: Four judges named to state Court of Claims Full story

The Macomb Daily: Former Macomb judges named to Snyder's new court of claims

Full story

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Supreme Court names Court of Claims judges

Full story

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Does justice depend on geography? Full story

WGVU Public Television & Radio: MI Supreme Court names Court of Claims judges

Full story

Zimbio: Political Talk: RE: Snyder-new court law is payback for opposition Full story

Michigan Court of Claims judges named

Unanimous Supreme Court appoints Judges Pat M. Donofrio, Amy Ronayne Krause, Deborah A. Servitto, Michael J. Talbot; judges' previous trial experience cited Press release

Detroit Legal News: Snyder signs law moving lawsuits to appeals court

"Republican Gov. Rick Snyder signed a law Tuesday removing lawsuits filed against the state from the jurisdiction of Ingham County and instead handing them to the state appeals court over objections from Democrats who accused him of court-rigging."

Full story

Also see:

Oakland County Legal News: Snyder signs legislation reforming Court of Claims

Full story

Petoskey News-Review: Snyder signs law moving lawsuits to appeals court Full story

The Detroit News: U-M law professor up for energy counsel post

"A University of Michigan law professor is up for consideration Thursday for a new post in the Obama administration. Steven Croley, a law school professor on leave from U-M, will appear before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Thursday for a confirmation hearing.... Croley is married to Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack, who also worked as a U-M law school professor before her election to the state bench in 2012."

Full story

Detroit Free Press: State Senate aims to quash proposal for greater transparency in political ads

"... Earlier, the State Bar of Michigan proposed greater disclosure for issue ads related to judicial campaigns, citing a record amount of 'dark money' that paid for ads related to the most recent Michigan Supreme Court elections. But Johnson rejected that today, saying nothing in state law would allow a special carve-out for judicial candidates."

Full story

Also see:

The Detroit News: Senate rejects Johnson move to expand campaign disclosure rules

Full story

MLive.com: Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson proposes new disclosure rules for dark money 'issue ads'

Full story

The MLW Blog: Secretary of State proposes sweeping changes in election spending disclosure

Full story

Associated Press: Meijer shopper who slipped on grapes loses appeal

"A dispute between Meijer and a shopper is a reminder to watch your step in the fruit aisle. The Michigan appeals court has affirmed a decision to throw out a lawsuit filed by Nancy Duncan, who said she was injured when she slipped on grapes at a Livingston County Meijer store."

Full story

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News, the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Daily Tribune, the Lansing State Journal, the Macomb Daily, the Times Herald/Port Huron and other media outlets.

Also see:

Daily Press & Argus: Court affirms Meijer slipping suit fell flat *Full story*

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Judge Schofield eyes seat held by Dewane

"Berrien County Trial Court Judge Scott Schofield is seeking to change seats in the 2014 general election. Schofield, a district court judge for 16 years, is running for a position in circuit court to be vacated by Judge John Dewane, who is barred by age from seeking another term.... Stephen Smith of Coloma, a lawyer in private practice, announced that he is running for the district court seat now held by Schofield." *Full story*

Ingham County Legal News: 21st Annual Stell Scholarship Award presented by Mid-Michigan Chapter WLAM

"Rachel Gruetzner, student at Michigan State University College of Law, was this year's winner of the Mid-Michigan Chapter Women Lawyers Association of Michigan (WLAM) 21st Annual Stell Scholarship Award. The ceremony was held on November 7th at Troppos in Lansing in honor of Hon. Amy Ronayne Krause, Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals."

Full story

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Man pleads no contest to extortion, given credit for almost three years served in jail, prison

"A 53-year-old man who worked with his daughter to extract money from a strip club patron pleaded no contest last week to extortion.... [David Allan's] case was to be retried, but the Friday, Nov. 8, plea made this unnecessary. In January, the Michigan Court of Appeals tossed out his June 2011 jury conviction on a charge of conspiracy to commit extortion because the circuit court did not swear in the jury." Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Friend of the Court panel to meet Nov. 18

"The Oakland County Friend of the Court (FOC) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), established by Friend of the Court Act 294, 1982 Section 552.504, will meet on Monday, Nov. 18, at 10 a.m. at the Oakland County Board of Commissioner's Auditorium, Pernick Conference Room, 1200 North Telegraph Road in Pontiac."

Full story

The Oakland Press: Macomb judge contests ex-wife's child support claim

"Judge Richard Caretti is contesting a claim by his ex-wife that he still owes \$1,750 for one month of child support in 2012 because she never cashed the payment check. Lori Conway of Franklin says she inadvertently never cashed the mailed check from Caretti for the August 2012 monthly payment and recently found it in a drawer in her home."

Full story

Spinal Column Newsweekly/Waterford: Lakes Area Veterans Come to Aid of Fellow Veterans

"If you love your freedom in America, thank a veteran. That's exactly what the 51st District Court in Waterford is doing with a brand new program to help our veterans who are now in need of assistance. The Oakland County 51st District Court welcomed [Waterford Township Veterans' Treatment Court] this year."

Full story